

ILNA Coin Digest

Winter/Spring 1994



— *THE VOICE OF ILNA* —

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President's Message

It is apparent that 1994 will be another year of change for ILNA. Our planning is getting more long range as we build upon the past year of accomplishments.

Our spring show for 1994 didn't materialize as it was simply too short a notice to properly plan. I am hoping we can find various clubs around the state that would be interested in hosting an ILNA spring show in 1995 and beyond. Our terms are stated in letters recently sent to all of our member clubs.

At present our fall show and convention will continue to be held in Peoria as they have an excellent facility at the Holiday Inn City Center.

Response has been good from our dues notices recently mailed. Notes enclosed with the remittances are really appreciated, as I don't get many opportunities to hear from some of our members. An article "Past and Present" sent with the dues notice is published in this issue for our life members, as well as anyone else who missed it. The charter members who still belong are observing their 35th anniversary this year. Jimmy Kaczor would appreciate hearing from them. His address is at the bottom of that article.

The Chicago Coin Club will be holding a banquet to observe its "75th Anniversary" on April 16th in conjunction with the Chicago International Coin Fair. Also available are commemorative medals observing the occasion. Representatives of ILNA, including myself, are planning on attending. Details are in this issue.

I wish to thank the clubs who have included me on their mailing lists. It helps keep me abreast of the activities going on in the various clubs, as it is impossible to get to many of the meeting in person.

I would like to call the membership's attention to the upcoming election in April of officers and board members for the Central States Numismatic Society. The board supports all ILNA members running and especially, L. Jimmy Kaczor, one of our own board members for 35 years. Jimmy will make a good addition, as he is totally committed to sharing his knowledge of numismatics with other collectors.

In closing, my phone number is 815-432-4636, for anyone with comments, concerns, or just wanting to talk. Hope to hear from you.

Numismatically yours,
Kermit W. Wasmer, President, ILNA

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ILNA Board Meeting Minutes

Nov. 7, 1993 Urbana, Illinois

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. by President Kermit Wasmer at the Urbana Civic Center, Urbana, IL.

The following board members were present:

Kermit Wasmer

Mark Wieclaw

Joe Irmen

Jack Zillion

Erthel Rose

Joe Wagoner

Jim Kaczor

The secretary's report from the previous meeting was read. Motion to accept as read made by Wieclaw, seconded by Irmen. Motion carried unanimously. The treasurer's report was read and discussed. Motion to accept by Wagoner, seconded by Rose. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kaczor gave the board another update on the I & M Canal project, stating that it should be mostly completed by the end of '93. Regarding the "History of ILNA" project, Kaczor assured the board that it, as well, will be finished by year's end.

Wasmer updated the board on individual members who have caught up their dues. As of this date, any member who has not paid their 1993 dues has been dropped from ILNA's mailing list.

Regarding 1994 ILNA goals, Wieclaw suggested that before the next convention, an listing of speakers should be made available well in advance. This would help lecture and seminar attendance.

Wasmer reminded the board to spread the word to clubs regarding available ILNA speakers at local club meetings. Kaczor offered his services gratis to any club desiring a speaker.

1993 Show Budget Review - Irmen distributed a '93 Convention report to all present. For the most part, ILNA stayed within budget, making a modest profit.

Zillion advised the board of new members acquired as a result of the '93 show. Overall, 14 new members were added. Since then, several more applications have been sent to prospective members.

(Continued on next page)

President Wasmer presented a special plaque to Vice President Joe Wagoner in recognition of 15 years' service on the ILNA Board of Directors. The entire board congratulates Joe on this accomplishment and thanks him for his dedication to ILNA. A similar award is in preparation for board member Erthel Rose, and deservedly so. Wasmer asked the board to submit their anniversary dates so that appropriate recognition may be given.

NEW BUSINESS:

Regarding a 1994 Spring Show, Irmen stated that he was still trying to locate a show site at a reasonable cost.

Wasmer informed the board that contracts have been signed for the 1994 Fall Convention and Show, which will be held October 7-9, 1994 in Peoria at the Holiday Inn City Center. Setup time will be from 8:00-10:00 AM Friday Oct. 7, with show hours 10:00-6:00. The hospitality room will be open Friday and Saturday from 12:00-5:00, with sandwiches available from 12:00-2:00. No food to be taken from the hospitality room. Wieclaw suggested finding exhibit award & hospitality room sponsors.

Number of bourse tables for the '94 show will be 75. Table fee will be \$125.00, with a corner table costing \$200.00. Returning dealers from last year will be able to purchase tables at \$110.00 if paid before April 1st. Wasmer stated that a letter would be sent to 1993 dealers stating this offer.

Admission charges will stay at \$1.00, and another raffle will be held, with tickets costing \$1.00 each, 3/\$2.00.

Regarding a possible Spring 1995 show in Springfield, Zillion stated that he would make contacts with CINA officials to gauge sentiment and suggest a possible ILNA/CINA joint show in that area.

The ILNA Digest was discussed, and it was noted by all that the Fall 1993 issue was one of the best ever. Wasmer commented that more dealer advertising would be even more beneficial, and that a list of ad rates would be sent to dealers.

Discussion ensued regarding the prospect of raising Life Membership fees. Motion to raise fee to \$75 made by Irmen, seconded by Rose. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Wagoner to keep Junior dues at \$2.00 was seconded by Irmen. Motion carried unanimously.

(Continued on next page)

Zillion reported that he is still working on a list of membership anniversary dates and passed out sample award certificates. He hopes to have the list fully compiled by next meeting.

Motion made by Kaczor for ILNA to pay its ANA dues, seconded by Irmen. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Wieclaw announced that this would be his last year as ILNA Treasurer. The board thanked him for his fine work. Vice President Joe Wagoner also announced that he would not seek another term on the ILNA board. Many thanks to Joe for all his contributions.

The next ILNA Board meeting will be held February 13th, 1994, in conjunction with the Rantoul Coin Club show.

Motion to adjourn made by Irmen, seconded by Kaczor. Meeting adjourned 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Zillion, Secretary

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Coinology

by Jimmy Kaczor

The Canal Bank of New Orleans

One would wonder how or why a person born in Wisconsin and living in Illinois would be a collector of bank notes from Louisiana. Back in the 1950's when I first became interested in paper money, I was looking for Illinois Bank Notes. I found a few, but not enough to make a good exhibit. At a coin show sponsored by the Tuscola Coin Club (now inactive) a dealer had one uncut sheet of bank notes: a five dollar sheet of the New Orleans Canal and Banking Company. If you have Haxby, it is listed as Louisiana G10. (See footnote at end of article on Haxby.) At the time there was little interest in bank notes. I bought it for three dollars. In those days 1950-D nickels were the hot item. That was my start on the Canal Bank.

The city of New Orleans had its inception in the year 1718 when Jean Baptiste de Bienville found a spot of ground between Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River that was suitable on which to build a trading post. The place was named for the Duc d'Orleans. The site was French, then Spanish, then French and in 1803 it became a part of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase. The city began to grow as businessmen saw the opportunities to make money at this most favorable site.

A few small banking operations were carried on in New Orleans prior to 1830, but nothing that could be called a full time bank. The state legislature fearing proliferation of banks, passed a law stating that no new bank could be started without a specific internal improvement purpose. In 1831, Mausel White and Beverly Chew, businessmen in the city, petitioned the state to issue them a permit to open a bank with the object of digging a canal from Lake Pontchartrain to the city. The men were awarded the charter on March 5, 1831. Four branch banks were allowed; St. Franciville, Alexandia, Franklin and Donaldson.

Archibald R. Taylor was the first president and Beverly Chew was the cashier. The books were immediately opened to sell stock in the bank. The book closed after a few days as stock was over-sold. A curious provision was in the charter. No matter how many shares of stock you owned in excess of 100 shares, you could only vote 100 shares. The bank did well the first year showing a profit of \$405,563.00. Of this, \$65,000 was used to build a new bank building on the corner of Gravier and Magazine

(Continued on next page)

Streets. The site was historic for it was the spot where almost 100 years before, the Jesuits built their first church and school.

The charter gave the bank six years to complete the canal with a provision that the canal be sixty feet wide and nine feet deep. A levee was to be built on the north side and on top of the levee a paved road twenty-two feet wide. (The road was paved with crushed oyster shells.)

The year was nothing short of a disaster. The canal was started in 1832. The Mississippi River flooded that year covering all but the highest ground. After the waters receded there was the mud and after the mud came sickness, yellow fever, malaria and cholera. One in every six people in New Orleans died. This was worse than the plagues in Europe. Who dug the canal? Not Black slave labor as most think. Irish and German immigrants were imported to do the work. The Irish came to leave a potato famine and the Germans came for a better way of life. The laborers were paid twenty dollars a month plus subsistence. The canal was six miles long. Today with dynamite, bulldozers and endloaders the job would be a piece of cake. Then they had shovels and wheelbarrows. Imagine six miles with such primitive tools. By the way, at one time the canal was called the "Irish Canal".

Started in 1832, the canal was completed in 1838 and turned over to the state. But the important thing is the bank did not go out of business. The bank separated itself from the canal and went on to become the largest banking house in the south. The bank's name was "The New Orleans Canal and Banking Company". This is a very easy way to tell the very early notes of the bank from the latter notes. If you have a note that just says "Canal Bank" you have a latter issue note. The Canal Bank issued notes from 1833 to the Civil War period. If you can't find a signed note, don't feel too bad. I don't have one either. Notes were redeemed as late as 1895 at full face value. The notes and uncut sheets available today are remainders or unused sheets. The single unsigned notes you find today are cut from those unused sheets.

Started in 1831, the bank continued until 1933 when it was closed by Roosevelt as a bank holiday. The Canal Bank was not allowed to reopen as the Canal Bank, but did resume business as the "First National Bank of Commerce". By way of showing the financial strength of the Canal Bank, it took from 1933 to 1957 to liquidate all of its assets and property.

As I said earlier, fully signed notes of the bank are extremely difficult to find. I do not have one in my collection.

(Continued on next page)

To have a note dated is very helpful. I have the following:

*Haxby G58A - Dated October 1, 1845; single & uncut sheet

*Haxby G34A - Dated February 10, 1849; uncut sheet

*Haxby G22A - Dated June 1, 1846; uncut sheet with signature of Glendy Burke

* The numbers used are from Haxby's book on United States Obsolete Bank Notes 1782-1866, published by Krause Publications, Iola, Wisc.

Glendy Burke put his private fortune in the Canal Bank during the troubled financial time of 1847. He was elected to the board and was later president of the bank.

J. H. White wrote three articles for The Numismatist issues of July 1951, Jan. 1963 and Apr. 1967.

Jimmy is available to give club presentations on many interesting topics. Please contact him by writing to Jimmy Kaczor, 1306 Hollycrest Dr., Champaign, IL 61821, for further information.

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Please join me in welcoming the following new members to our association. These members have joined since our 1993 Fall Show.

1. Martin Vink - South Holland, IL
2. Angel Quinones - DesPlaines, IL
3. Fred Smith - Henderson, IL
4. Tim Kyzivat - LaGrange, IL

5. Keith LeSeure - Champaign, IL
6. David Crouse - Champaign, IL
7. Wesley Payton - Bloomington, IL
8. Rick Diercks - DuQuoin, IL

New Club Member - Fox Valley Coin Club

In addition, The Chicago Coin Club has become a life member. — Kermit Wasmer

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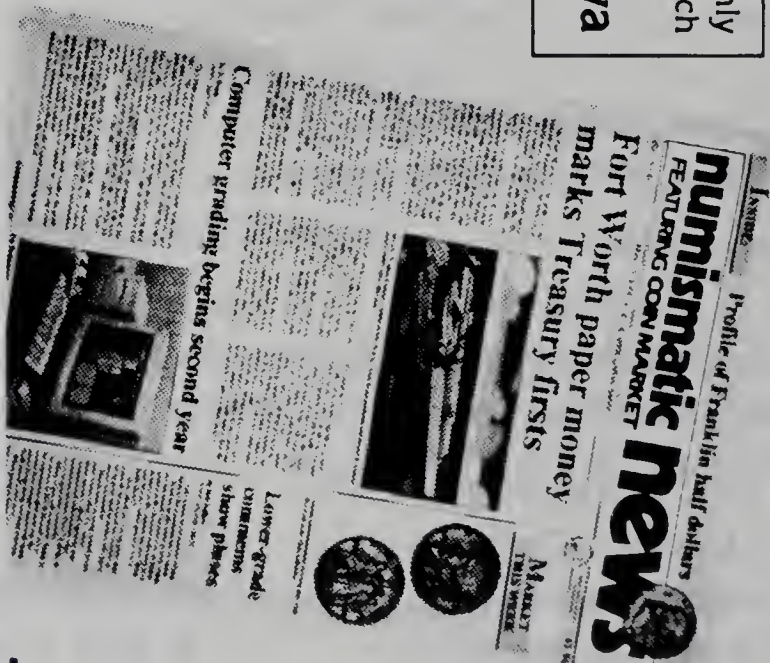
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Chicago club marks 75th anniversary with plaque

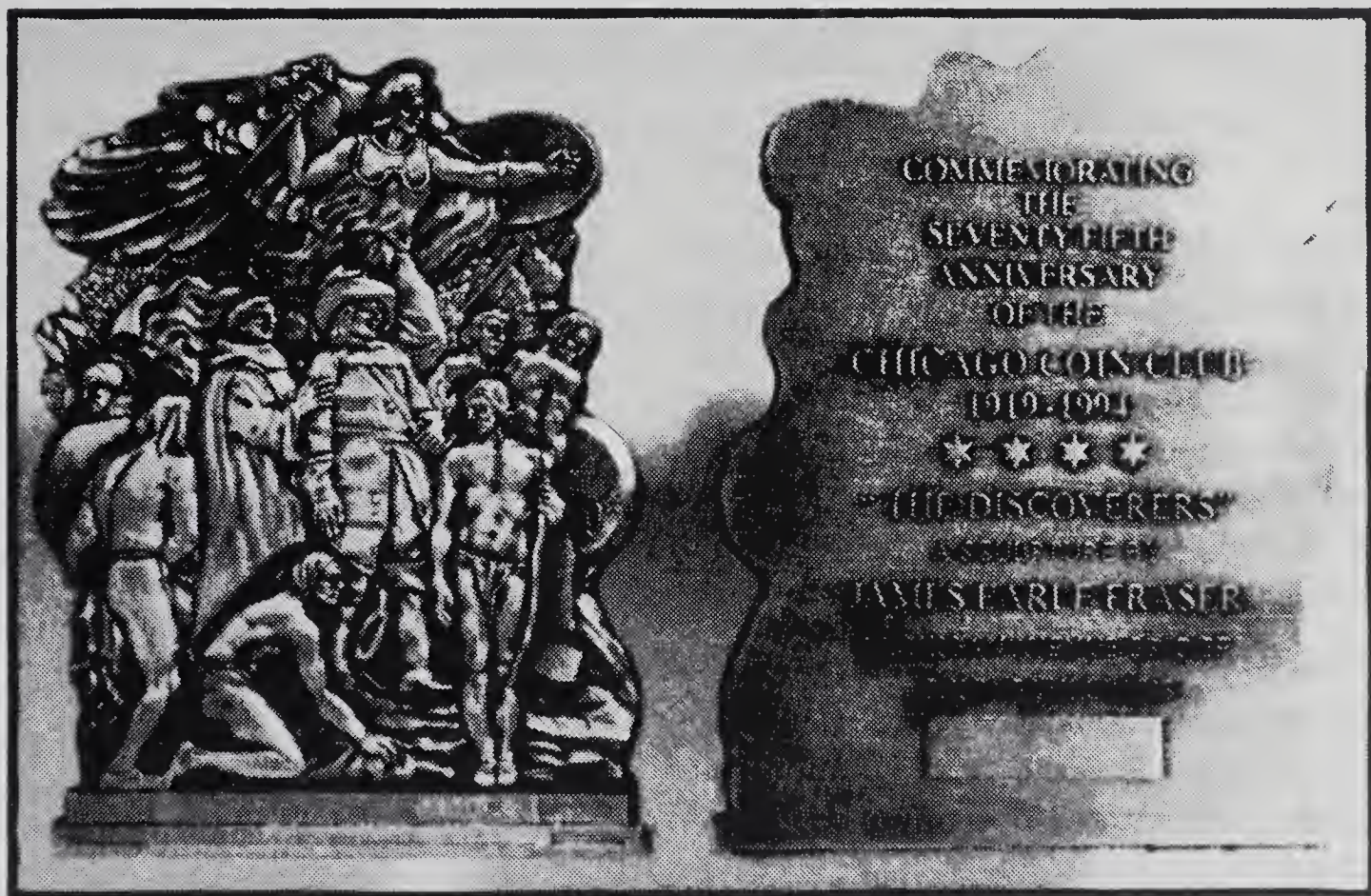
A plaque medal will be issued by the Chicago Coin Club as part of the celebration marking the 75th anniversary of the organization in 1994.

The 2.625-by-3.5 inch plaque will be issued in bronze, .925 fine silver with a weight of 10.23 ounces and in .417 fine gold with a weight of 11.425 ounces.

The obverse is a reduced replica of "The Discoverers" by Chicago sculptor James Earl Fraser, also designer of the Indian Head 5-cent coin. "The Discoverers" was completed in 1928 and is located on the northeast pylon of the Michigan Avenue bridge over the Chicago River in Chicago. "The Pioneers," also by Fraser, is on the northwest pylon.

"The Discoverers" depicts the winged and helmeted female allegorical figure of the Spirit of Exploration above a gathering of figures including Indians, Louis Joliet, Father Marquette, Robert Cavelier de LaSalle and his lieutenant, Henri de Tonti.

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("THE DISCOVERERS") by James Earl Fraser is the subject of a plaque in gold, silver and bronze.

Junior Member wins Oak Forest Coin Club's highest honor

by Howard Ribbentrop (1993 President, OFCC)

The Oak Forest Coin Club Member of the Year Award is not easy to win. If one really wants to "go for the gold", then you have to work hard for it. You have to commit to the club and the hobby at the meetings and outside of the meetings. You have to believe in the club and its goals in and for the community. Each November, OFCC Board Members meet to review the leading candidates for its highest award, then by secret ballot cast their votes. No junior had ever won the Member of the Year Award prior to 1993. But this year it was to be a Juniors' Year.

Will Shannon, a junior member of only a little over two years in the club, was "in the running" in June already without even realizing what he was headed for. Will is a 16 year old junior in Oak Forest High School. He holds an "A" average and a grade point average of 6.0 out of 6.0. He is not only fully committed at school but in the club as well. He gets involved in all of our activities and enjoys doing it as though it's all second nature to him.

Will is Assistant Editor of The Oak Leaf (Newsletter), he is president of the Junior Club (within our club), he is our auctioneer at every meeting, he has exhibited and talked on a subject at every meeting, he held a seat on the Board of Governors, he organized an awards program for junior members, won an ANA Scholarship (specializes in coins of the British Commonwealth), helped promote the club and hobby in outside activities, brought in new members, submitted information to various periodicals for publishing, was active on committees, exhibitor at our annual show, ran for Vice President (1994) and won, and continually volunteers to help out.

This prestigious award was given to Will at our annual Christmas Banquet held on December 3rd at Surma's Restaurant, in which among the 65 members and guests were former ANA Board Member Donn Pearlman and Chicago Tribune writer Roger Boye, and two very proud parents!



Will Shannon holds Member of the Year Award as he addresses membership at the club's Annual Christmas Banquet.



Will Shannon (center) is congratulated by former ANA Board of Governor Donn Pearlman (left) and Chicago Tribune Coin Collector Columnist Roger Boye (right).

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THE ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

PAST AND PRESENT

The idea for a state organization was formed when a group of collectors got together at the Corn Belt Coin Club Show in 1959 to discuss numismatics in general. The first organizational meeting was held at the Peoria Coin Club Show at the Hotel Pere Marquette in September of 1959. Goals of the new state organization were to further numismatics through knowledge and to promote annual three day shows around the state by hosting clubs. Officers elected at this first meeting were: President - Ralph Winquist of Rockford; Vice President - Glenn Murphy of Armington; Treasurer - Bob Okell of Bloomington; and Secretary - Marjorie Baker of Peoria. Governors elected were: Lester Beatty, Jesse Peters, James Kaczor, Walter Loud, Connie Anderson, Charles Moler and Kenneth Mabray. Dues were set at \$1.00 per year.

From this beginning in 1959, shows were held in Peoria, Chicago, Centralia, Mattoon, Springfield, LaSalle, Joliet and Moline in the ensuing years. Some of the shows were quite large as the hobby grew in the 70's and early 80's.

Today ILNA's principal goals are to promote the hobby among the young, serve the membership and hold a three day show and convention each year. Our association at present, has 236 paid members as well as 24 local clubs around the state. One of our programs, through a very capable board, is to furnish speakers when requested, to local clubs. A Digest is published three times a year which contains various articles on numismatics by capable writers, as well as advertising and other pertinent material about numismatics and the association. Show dates and other material for local member clubs are also published. We make programs available for schools, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts upon request. We hold a young auction at our state show to further the collecting interest of the age group. Our commitment to the next generation is to hopefully start them collecting at a young age for a lifetime of enjoyment.

Help from our membership is appreciated at all levels even if it is only paying your dues on time. Donation of numismatic material for various programs would be greatly appreciated. Our board and officers, for the most part, receive no pay and it is mainly their dedication that keeps our organization alive. Our main expense is in printing and mailing the Digest three times a year. As a member, what do you want to get out of ILNA? It depends, what you are willing to put into your state organization. We are growing, but it is slow. Tell your numismatic friends about us.

Jimmy Kaczor would like to hear from some of our members who have interesting stories about ILNA in its early days. His address is: 1306 Hollycrest Dr.,
Champaign, IL 61821

ILNA Board Member Profile

James Erlenborn

By way of introduction, my name is James F. Erlenborn. I am your immediate past president of the Illinois Numismatic Association and presently serve as Chairman of the Board of Governors. I have been in an official capacity with this association as an officer or board member since 1978. By profession I am a bank loan officer at Citizens First National Bank in Peru, Illinois. I hold a B.S. degree in business from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, and am a graduate of the Illinois Banker's Association School of Banking at Southern Illinois University. My wife Nancy and myself have three children.....Nicole, Jimmy, and Patricia.

I remember vividly the purchase of my first coin in 1957 at the age of ten. A local coin shop opened that same year and I have pursued the hobby in a diligent degree since that point in time. It was difficult to convince my parents at that time why I would spend my paper route earnings on Lincoln Cents, Buffalo Nickels, Mercury Dimes, etc., on a perpetual basis. It was the finest course in economics and banking that could have ever been taken!

Over the years my endeavors have changed and my present interests include larger denomination gold and silver type coins. My favorite area is Seated Liberty Dollars from the 1840's. I was fortunate to exhibit this set at the ANA's 100th Anniversary Convention in Chicago in 1990.

(Continued on next page)

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ILNA Board Member Profile (Cont.)

An avid educational exhibitor I was awarded both the Lelan G. Rogers Award and the ANA Award in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1980. These two awards represented the best exhibit of U.S. silver coinage and the best of all U.S. metallic coinage respectively at that national convention. Other memorable exhibiting experiences include numerous C.S.N.S., ILNA and the Iowa Numismatic Association Conventions where I received numerous Best of Show and First Place awards. Each hold significance as to not what was attained, but rather the wonderful friendships that were derived. Another great experience was being selected as a speaker at the ANA's numismatic theatre at their annual convention in Milwaukee in 1986.

My objectives with ILNA will be to continue uninterrupted support of our fine state association. This includes maintaining our annual convention in Central Illinois, furthering our young numismatist activities and auctions at those conventions, and a commitment to sound financial decision making which will continue to benefit our state organization.

Be assured many changes have taken place over the last thirty years. Many more government coin programs and regulations remain unclear on the numismatic horizon. Always remember an envelope, stamp, sheet of paper, and fifteen minutes of your time can carry a lot of weight. As your chairman, I look forward to hearing from you at anytime.



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NOTICE OF ELECTION *1994-1996 TERM*

A ballot with a full slate of officers and board will be printed in the Summer Digest. Any members wishing to place their name on the ballot may obtain an application by writing our ILNA secretary:

Jack Zillion
2601 W. Lake Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614

Candidates must be able to attend four board meetings per year and be a member in good standing. Election to be held on October 9th in Peoria at our Annual Show and Convention. Location to be announced at the show. Application must be received by June 15 by our secretary so your name can be placed on the ballot.

Feature Article

A Brief History of Confederate Currency

by J. Zillion, Westlake Rare Coins

The Civil War of 1861-65 indeed marked a turbulent period in American history. Sparked by the 1860 secession of South Carolina and the creation of the Confederacy, four long, bloody years passed before the final Confederate surrender in April of 1865. A small but important part of this struggle was the paper money of the Confederate Treasury, which played a vital role in the South's purchase of war materials. Despite loans from foreign countries, the seizure of three U.S. Mint facilities, and private contributions from the Southern people, the Confederate government could muster very little hard currency and was forced to issue paper money.

Confederate paper money was produced in seven separate issuing periods, beginning in March, 1861, and ending with the issue of Feb. 17, 1864. They were issued in denominations ranging from 50 cents to \$1000. Although the initial designs of the 1861 issues came from several different engravers, most of the remaining issues were engraved by Keatinge and Ball Co. of Charleston, S.C., site of the Confederacy's printing headquarters. Most notes were very colorful and artistic in their design. Some depicted allegorical figures, such as Justice, Liberty, and Commerce, as well as portraits of historical figures like George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Jefferson Davis, and "Stonewall" Jackson. Others showed vignettes of various aspects of Southern life. Blacksmiths, children, soldiers, slaves, and others were featured on various issues.

The Confederate government was largely composed of former Congressmen who all knew the dangers that inflated currency could bring. Therefore, they decided that their issues of paper money were to be solidly backed...by cotton. At the time, this seemed a sound idea; indeed, the South produced most of the world's cotton supply. Southern planters were asked to contribute a portion of their crop to the Confederate government, and in return were issued Confederate bonds. This plan gave the Confederacy a sizable cotton reserve, to be exported and sold as needed to raise hard currency for the war effort.

Unfortunately, the Confederate plan developed some major flaws. England, the South's primary cotton customer, had just put in an adequate supply with its 1860 purchase of nearly 2 million bales, and, to make matters worse, the Union had tightly

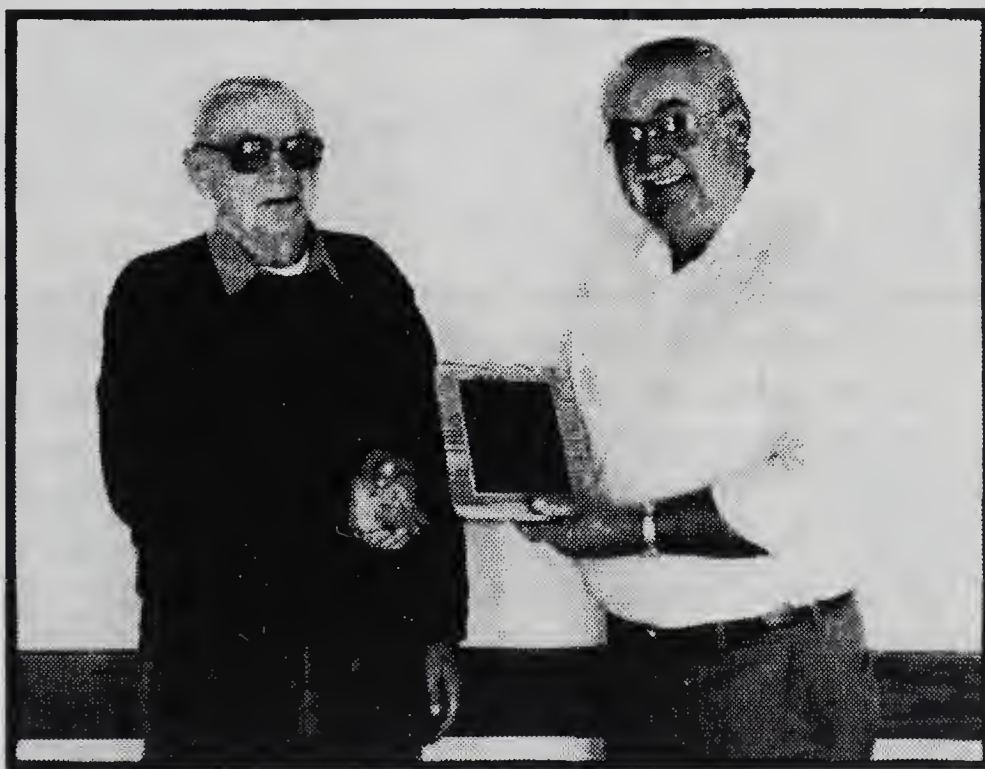
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blockaded the Confederacy, making any other attempts at exportation virtually impossible. Without a hard currency backing them, Confederate notes fell drastically in value. Originally worth 95 cents on the dollar in gold, their value dropped to 33 cents by 1863, and to 1.6 cents by the end of the war. The last active trading of Confederate notes was in May, 1865, at a rate of 1200 to 1.

Of the amount of Confederate notes issued, a surprisingly low number have survived. Some types are quite scarce and sought after by collectors of Civil War relics as well as mainstream paper money collectors. These small "bits of history" serve as remembrances of one of our country's darkest times.

This is the fifth of a regular series of articles on paper money and coins throughout the history of our country. We hope you will find it both interesting and informative.

Joe Wagoner Receives Award



Joe Wagoner was recognized for his 15 years as an ILNA board member at the Urban Coin Show in November. Shown here, Joe receives his award from President Kermit Wasmer. Joe was first elected to the board in 1978.

I Usta Couldn't Even Spelt Noomiskamatisk, Now I Are One!

A Tongue In Cheek Look At Those Horrible Titles

by Howard W. Ribbentrop, Oak Forest, IL

The longer I remain in this hobby the more befuddled I am about "those words" and how we got tagged with them. You know what words I'm talking about; Numismatics and Numismatist! Authoritative books define the words as being derived from the Greek word "Nomismatikos" which means "relating to a coin", or "Nummis", the Latin generic term for money.

I always get the feeling that somewhere back in time some authoritative person who hated people that collected coins said, "Hey, let's call these people Numismatists!", and wound up rolling on the floor laughing. He and the book publisher both rolled on the floor laughing together. It was put in print and ever since we have carried the burdens and the derivatives of the word "Numismatist".

How can you feel comfortable telling anyone you're a numismatist when the word sounds like you have a disease. (In mixed company.) "Oh, and what do you do for enjoyment?" "I'm a Numismatist!" "(Pause), I'm sorry. Are you taking anything for it? I know a doctor who specializes in sicknesses like that." Or how about this one. "I study Numismatics." "Wow that's great, I have a leak in my air compressor. Think you could take a look at it?" Do we deserve this?

Then even after those around us know what we are, they murder the word. And that goes for many in the hobby too. We are called Numists, Numizzzatists, Numatists, Newmits, Nutismatists, Numizts, New Mistatist, Numizmaticatisk, Numaist, and it goes on. Now to make matters worse, a collector like myself who specializes in medals is called an "Exonumist". If I go by Websters Dictionary, "Ex" means a term that is no longer applicable. So I guess if I'm an "Exonumist", it means I used to be an "Onumist". I had no idea I was an "Onumist" and besides, I don't think I ever was because my mother taught me as a youngster never to be something that has a title that gets no respect.

Vecturists have their own set of problems too. Although they collect transportation tokens, "Vecturist" sounds more like they trim fingernails or chart maps for oil freighters. Your choice! Depending on your fashion statement, you may be mistaken for either one when you tell anyone you are a Vecturist.

(Continued on next page)

Now here is a good one! A collector of wooden nickels and similar items is called (Are you ready?).....a Lignadenarist. What is that? These nice collectors don't deserve a name like that. As a young whippersnapper, I can remember getting into scraps for being called a lot less than that.

Stamp collectors can't have it any better. They are Philatelists and the study Philately. Now that word "Philatelist" always sounded to me like a person who has gas. "He's a Philatelist, best to keep your distance from him." So that's why Philatelists have no one around them at parties.

Someone once said that if you don't have a solution to a problem then you are part of the problem. I don't know who that "someone" was but there always seems to be a "someone" around to say thing like that. They just never have names. I always believed that "someone's" are unemployed people who are hired as consultants to help companies out of problems of which they know nothing about.

As a result of "someone's" statement, I have come up with a solution. First of all, I think all of us deserve "more respect" and we have to Americanize our collector titles to protect those innocent non-collectors from making fools of themselves and us. I say get rid of all the Greek and Latin terms and leave them for the scientists who use them on two legged creatures that used to live in caves long before they started carrying attache cases and lunchbags to work. "Ist" will be out and "-ology" will be in. The term "-ology" is the science of or study of the element preceded by it. Therefore a coin collector studies Coinology and becomes a Coinologist. From this simple explanation alone you can see it would work for all areas of our hobby. Medal, token and currency collectors would become Medalologist, Tokenologist, Currencyologist to name a few. All self described in simple American terms. At least when you tell new acquaintances that you're a Coinologist, the next time you see them they won't have a clove of garlic hanging around their neck.

So I've said my spiel. I hereby proclaim myself a medal collector who specializes in Medalology. The rest of you can take it from there. Rise up and rebel. Spread the word, "We won't take this abuse anymore!" And by the way, you Philatelists are on your own. You really have a problem.

— REMEMBER —

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The Oak Forest Coin Club

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May 5, 1994 - Bremen Township Hall, Oak Forest, IL

The earliest known inhabitants of the Oak Forest area were Indians dating back to around 1680. Archeological excavations in the area uncovered the existence of an Indian village which was at the edge of a beach deposit of Lake Chicago, an ancestor of Lake Michigan during the glacial period. The Indian tribe is questionable but likely to be Illinois or Miami Indians.

The first known house in the area was a log cabin built by a "Mr. Cooper" after which the area became known as Coopers Grove. Cooper patronized the drovers taking their herds of cattle to Chicago. At the extremes of what is now Oak Forest were Goeselville and Bachelors Grove. Records do not indicate when settlers came here but it is believed to be in the early 1800's. Goeselville by the late 1800's had a Post Office and stores which carried dry goods, groceries, cloth material, farm implements, tombstones, and a saloon where one could satisfy the thirsts for liquor.

As Goeselville was growing, a group of single men bought tracts of land for \$1.25 an acre just to the east. This area became known as Bachelors Grove. In Bachelors Grove Cemetery, the earliest readable tombstone is 1823. Some findings there include a 1774 King George III Half Pence and a 1817 US Coronet Cent. This cemetery, known for its sightings of ghosts and para-normal exhibits, has been the subject of many books and several television shows.

The earliest reference to Oak Forest appears in a letter dated December 9, 1885. The earliest printed record of the name Oak Forest appears on an 1893 Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railway timetable that became effective January 5, 1893. No doubt that the name was officially adopted in late 1892 in preparation for the May 1, 1893 opening of the World's Columbian Exposition on Chicago's lakefront. The Columbian Exposition in all its Victorian grandeur played host to nearly 22 million visitors that year. Many fair visitors rode the CRI & P Railroad through and from the new town of Oak Forest anticipating the excitement of the day. And at the end of the day, and the long ride home through the countryside, memories would linger, never to be forgotten. The one souvenir that was always saved as a reminder was the beautiful Admission Ticket printed by the American Banknote Company in New York. If one was really lucky, he or she may have received the beautiful vignette of the Great Emancipator Abraham Lincoln, our President during the Civil War, or the Indian Chief, our Native Americans who not so long ago inhabited the very land which the train chugged over. The Victorian Era was climaxed by the World Columbian Exposition. It closed on October 30, 1893. Among the many souvenirs, the Admission Tickets remain the most beautiful and most desirable.

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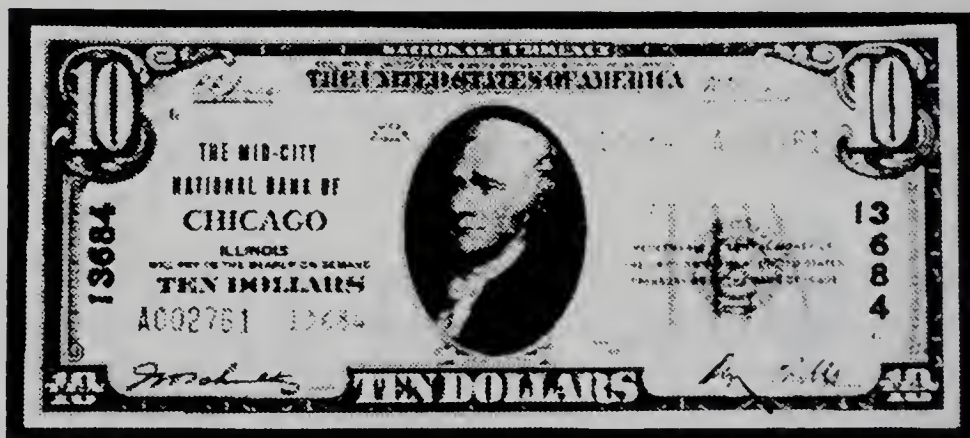
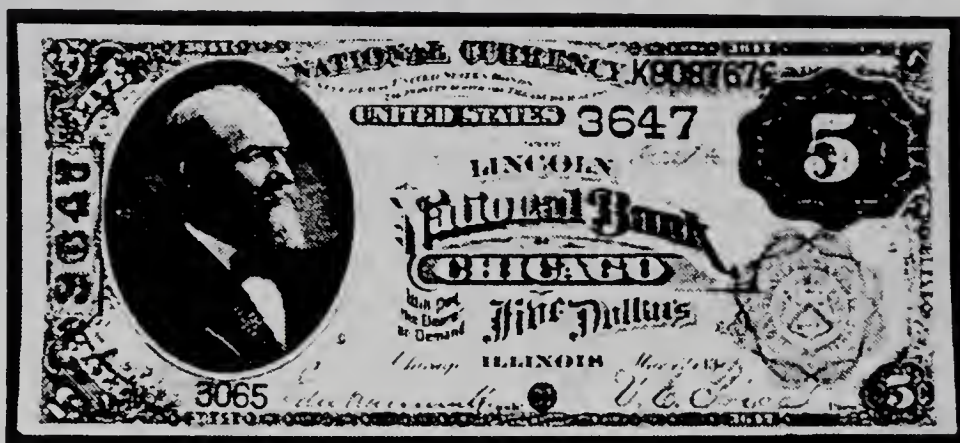
Let's Talk Currency

Rag Pickers? - Not Anymore!!!

by Tim Kyzivat

It seems that not too many years ago, currency collectors were referred to as rag pickers. They were relegated to second class citizenship in the numismatic fraternity. Not anymore!! Currency collecting has really come into its own and is becoming more popular everyday.

The explosion of research and the new information available, along with more dealers handling currency, has created a very strong and viable currency market. More collectors are beginning to appreciate the beauty of our old notes and the relative bargains that are available when compared to coins. Coins of which several dozen may be known can sell for \$50,000 or more whereas a note of equal rarity can sell for \$1,000.



Organizations such as The Society of Paper Money Collectors (SPMC) with over 1700 members worldwide, are dedicated to the collector. Their excellent bi-monthly publication, "Paper Money", contains interesting and well researched articles about all areas of currency. The International Banknote Society covers the area of world currency.

The annual paper money conventions in Memphis (June) and St. Louis (November) are gatherings of approximately 100 currency dealers. Collectors eagerly search through dealer stock in search of the notes that they seek for their collections. These shows also have auctions of approximately 2000 to 2700 lots of currency and other related paper such as stocks and bonds. For the true collector this is really heaven!!

(Continued on next page)

Currency collecting has much to offer to collectors of all means and interests. From a collection of small size silver certificates or federal reserve notes to a collection of home town national bank notes to a collection of superb rarities, each collection presents its own challenges and rewards. The ways to collect are as numerous as the number of collectors.

This is a hobby meant to be enjoyed over many years. The possession of a large amount of money will not assure a collection of currency. Patience and diligence are necessary as these notes are sometimes available in such small quantities that the mere possession of money cannot ensure their ownership. As in other hobbies, much of the enjoyment comes from the hunt for that elusive piece. That makes the final purchase that much more enjoyable.

In future columns I will discuss topics such as reference books, publications and paper money organizations. I will also write about ways to collect currency, notes of special interest and about interesting notes from many Illinois towns. I look forward to bringing you information about my favorite hobby - Currency.

Tim Kyzivat has been a currency collector for over 20 years. He is an avid collector of Chicago national bank notes and other paper from Chicago. Tim is currently the Treasurer of the Society of Paper Money Collectors. He regularly sets up at the NOISE Coin Show in Westmont on the third Sunday of each month. All are invited to top by and say hello and learn a little about this fantastic area of currency collecting.

On this day in history.....

Jan. 2, 1968....Mint marks restored to U.S. coins.

Jan. 18, 1796....First U.S. dime struck.

Jan. 18, 1980....Silver bullion value peaks at \$49.45 oz. in London.

Jan. 21, 1980....Gold bullion value peaks at \$850.00 oz. in London.

Jan. 24, 1848...Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill in California.

Jan. 30, 1946...Roosevelt dime introduced.

MAKING SENSE

by John D. Wright, NLG

This was the year that Cuban cigar-makers made the first cotton-paper-wrapped "little cigars", or "cigarettes". It was the year that earthquakes in Cuzco and Quito killed 41,000 people. It was the year that the first commercial orange marmalade was made (Dundee, Scotland, by James Keiller).

It was the year of the first British copper pennies. It was the first year that showed 13 stars on U.S. coins of silver and gold. And it was the year that any type of edge devices were finally abandoned on U.S. copper coins. Have you guessed the year yet? If not, perhaps a few more clues might help.

Napoleon won his first decisive victory this year. The "XYZ Affair" brought the U.S. close to declaring war on France. The third edition of "Encyclopedia Britannica" came out this year. And Tennessee became the 16th state the year before. The year was 1797.

The confusion on the number of stars on U.S. silver and gold coins arises from the admittance on 1 June 1796 of Tennessee as the 16th state. All silver and gold U.S. coins of 1794-1795 have 15 stars: one for each state. Dies made in early 1796 had 15 stars, while those from late 1796 had 16 stars. The lone exception is the first 1796 quarter eagle which is starless. By 1797 there were begun-in-1796 dies of both types that were then completed (dated) and used.

The cause for the final variant of 1797 (and all years beyond) was best summarized by Walter Breen's statement: "The permanent shift to 13 stars followed Mint Director Elias Budinot's realizing that the Mint could not go on indefinitely adding new stars as new states entered the Union."

But my personal fascination with early U.S. coinage runs to copper coins. Those are the pieces of which I can actually afford to OWN more than one or two.

With the weight-reduction of copper coins in late 1795, one would think that edge-devices ended there. And for the most part, they did. But not completely.

Cents and half cents of 1795 come with both plain and lettered edge. A very few 1795 cents even have a reeded edge. All cents and half cents of 1796 have plain edge. But half cents of 1797 come with lettered, plain, and "gripped" edge. And cents of 1797 come with plain and gripped edge too. All U.S. copper coins after 1797 come only with plain edge.

(Continued on next page.)

The gripped-edge coppers of 1797 stand alone in U.S. numismatics. Nothing else is like them. The gripped-edge half cents are rare, with fewer than two dozen known. The gripped-edge cents come only on two varieties. And those two varieties share a common holdover reverse die from 1796, with single leaves at the top of both branches of the wreath. MOST CURIOUS!! If you want a U.S. gripped-edge copper, this is the one you can afford.

Edge lettering on U.S. coins before 1900 was applied in the “rolling” process before the blanks were struck. The two strip-dies between which the blanks were rolled had raised lettering which cut into the coin-blank. But the “gripped edge” strip-dies were different. One had a series of “teeth” or “spikes” that cut “dimples” into the edge of the copper blank, while the other had a seemingly matching set of holes that raised “pimples” on the edge. Since each strip-die impressed a half-turn of the rim, the end result might be better described as a “dimple and pimple edge”. FASCINATING! Why did they do it? I don’t know — but they obviously gave it up rather quickly.

Since I collect die varieties of U.S. large cents, the gripped edge 1797’s make up only a small part of my fascination with this year. There are also the “stemless wreath” varieties (5 of them), the rarities (14 to 16 of them, with two being unique), the exotic die states (rampant on cents before 1805), and the mis-strikes (more often seen on cents of 1795-1797 than on other nearby years). Overall, the cents of 1797 are seen a bit less frequently than those of 1798 but are priced comparably. It is another of my many favorite years. But please don’t ask what is my MOST favorite year; that’s like asking “Which is your favorite child?”

We could explore in more detail the 32 die-combinations of 1797 cents (plus two edge-variations) or the 3 die-combinations of 1797 half cents (plus two edge-variations), but space does not permit that here. For further reading I recommend Breen’s “Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins”, Sheldon’s “Penny Whimsy”, Cohen’s “American Half Cents”, and/or Breen’s “Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents”.

John D. Wright is a leader of Early American Coppers, a contributing editor of “Penny-Wise”, and the author of “The CENT Book”. He has collected U.S. large cents for forty years.

NOTICE:

Future mailing policy will be to send only one ILNA DIGEST to each address except for clubs. Individual digests will be mailed if requested in writing to the ILNA mailing address found on page 2. Thank you for saving the expense of multiple mailings.

Club Profile

Elgin Coin Club

The Elgin Coin Club was founded in 1957. It presently has 79 members with 40-50 attending any given meeting. Its meetings are held at the Elgin V.F.W. Post 1307 at 1601 Weld Road, Elgin, IL on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings include a buy, sell and trade session, raffle prizes, membership prizes and junior membership prizes. Every three months a super raffle is held. A regular monthly auction is held as well as a program and general club business. Guest speakers give presentations when available. Refreshments are served during the meeting.

The club shows are held at the Ramada Inn at 500 West River Road in Elgin. (I-90 and Rt. 31)

Additional club information may be obtained by writing: David Jones, Secretary, P.O. Box 561, South Elgin, IL 60177

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Chicago club marks 75th.... (cont.)

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The funds for the dies were donated by Andrew Michyeta, CCC president and owner of Premier Metal Works.

The CCC will produce a video on the club as part of the anniversary celebration. Donn Pearlman, a broadcaster for Columbia Broadcast System, has volunteered to interview for and edit the tape. Details of the content of the tape were not immediately available.

The 75th anniversary banquet will be held April 16, 1994, in conjunction with the Chicago International Coin Fair at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers. Banquet tickets are \$40 on a reservation-only basis.

The bronze medal is offered at \$20, silver at \$125 and gold at \$2,165. Price of the precious metal medals is subject to change due to the price of the metals at the time of production. A \$10 discount is offered for pre-orders of both the bronze and silver issue. Mail orders should include \$5 postage and insurance costs per coin.

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James Erlenborn	P	P	P	A
Darrell Geiger	P	A	A	A
Sonny Henry	P	P	P	A
Joe Irmen	A	P	P	P
L. Jim Kazcor	P	P	P	P
Erthel Rose	P	P	P	P
Joe Wagoner	P	A	A	P
Kermit Wasmer	P	P	P	P
Mark Wieclaw	A	P	P	P
Dennis Witter	P	P	P	A
Jack Zillion	N/A	P	P	P

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Upcoming Coin Shows

- Feb. 27, 1994 (Sun.) Gibson City Coin Club 26th Annual Show. *Location:* Railside Depot & Golf Club, Rt. 47/19th St. *Table Fee:* \$15.00. *Contact:* Roy E. Riblet, 422 E. Chestnut St., Gibson City, IL 60957. Ph. 217-379-2839
- Mar. 6, 1994 (Sun.) Wat-cha-kee Coin Club Annual Show. *Location:* American Legion Post 23, 115 E. Oak, Watseka, IL. Free Admission. *Table fee:* \$15. *Contact:* Ed Bush, 815-432-3232
- Mar. 6, 1994 (Sun.) Central Illinois Numismatic Assoc. Annual Spring Coin Show. *Location:* Best Western East, 3090 Stevenson Dr., Springfield, IL. *Table Fee:* \$35.00. *Contact:* Steve Butler, 1712 S. First St., Springfield, IL 62704. Ph. 217-528-7634
- Mar. 13, 1994 (Sun.) Will County Coin Club Show. *Location:* Holiday Inn, Larkin Ave. & I-80, Joliet, IL. Free admission. *Table fee:* \$30. *Contact:* Clayton Hageman, 1414 Eldamain Rd., Plano, IL 60545. Ph. 708-552-3491
- Mar. 20, 1994 (Sun.) Kankakee Coin, Stamp and Card Club Show. *Location:* Civic Auditorium, S. 8th Ave, & Charles St., Kankakee, IL. *Table fee:* \$25.00. *Contact:* Kenneth R. Posing, 123 S. Kennedy Dr., Bradley, IL 60915. Ph. 815-935-1515
- Mar. 26-27, 1994
(Sat. - Sun.) St. Clair Numismatic Society Annual Spring Show. *Location:* Quality Inn, Rt. 157 & I-70. *Table fee:* \$50.00. *Contact:* Otis L. Miller, 1121 E. Main, Belleville, IL 62220. Ph. 618-277-4493 after 1:30, Sat. 9am-5pm.
- Mar. 26, 1994 (Sat.) Tazewell Numismatic Society 34th Anniversary Show. *Location:* Miller Senior Center, 551 S. 14th St., Pekin, IL. *Table fee:* \$20.00. *Contact:* Dale O. Freidinger, PO Box 696, Pekin, IL 61554.
- Mar. 27, 1994 (Sun.) Lake County Coin Club Annual Show. *Location:* Moose Lodge #706, 2755 Washington St., Waukegan, IL. *Table fee:* \$20.00. *Contact:* Alan Zimmer, 1983 Packard Ln., Gurnee, IL 60031. Ph. 708-336-3433

- Apr. 2, 1994 (Sat.) Corn Belt Coin Club Spring Show. Free admission. *Location:* Elk's Lodge, corner of Madison & Washington, Bloomington, IL. *Table fee:* \$15. *Contact:* Bill Whisler, 409 Belview Ave., Normal, IL 61761. Ph. 309-452-6870
- Apr. 10, 1994 (Sun.) Schaumburg Coin Club 13th Annual Show. *Location:* Marriott Hotel, 50 N. Martingale, Schaumburg, IL. *Table fee:* \$30.00. *Contact:* Jim Davis, PO Box 68246, Schaumburg, IL 60194. Ph. 708-934-1427
- Apr. 14-16, 1994
(Thur. - Sat.) Chicago International Coin Fair. *Location:* Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers Cityfront Center, 301 E. North Water. *Contact:* Kevin Foley, CICF, PO Box 573, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Ph. 414-282-2388
- Apr. 17, 1994 (Sun.) Mattoon Coin Club Show. *Location:* Holiday Inn, Rt. 16, Mattoon, IL. *Table fee:* \$25.00. *Contact:* Mattoon Coin Club, PO Box 143, Mattoon, IL 61938.
- Apr. 24, 1994 (Sun.) Hillsboro Hilltop Coin Club Annual Show. *Location:* Civic Center, Main St., Benld., IL. *Table fee:* \$20.00. *Contact:* Earl Sanford, Box 402, Witt, IL 62094. Ph. 217-594-2841
- Sept. 25, 1994 (Sun.) Rockford Area Coin Club Show. *Location:* Ramada Inn (Hoffman House), 7550 E. State St., Rockford, IL (Bus. 20 off I-90). *Table fee:* \$28.00. *Contact:* Ralph Winkvist, 1004 C Street, Rockford, IL 61107. Ph. 815-963-0396
- Oct. 7-9, 1994
(Fri. - Sun.) Illinois Numismatic Association Coin Show. *Location:* Holiday Inn City Center, 500 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria, IL. *Contact:* Joseph DeModica, 5N 105 Rt. 53, Itasca, IL 60143. Ph. 708-250-7474
- Oct. 23, 1994 (Sun.) Hoopeston Coin Club Show. *Location:* American Legion Home, East Penn & South 4th Sts., Hoopeston, IL. *Table fee:* \$12.50. *Contact:* Joe Wagoner, 322 W. Orange St., Hoopeston, IL 60194. Ph. 217-283-6733

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Application is hereby made for a bourse table at the Illinois State Coin Convention, Oct. 7, 8, 9, 1994. Set-up hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Friday. Bourse hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday; 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday; 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Armed guard security will be provided from 8:00 a.m. Friday until 4:00 p.m. Sunday.

I understand and agree to the following stipulations. Bourse tables: \$125.00 for one eight foot table and back-up table, three name tags. Corner table - \$200.00. All tables assigned immediately on a first come basis. Send \$50.00 per table for deposit now.

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Applicant irrevocably releases the Illinois Numismatic Association, its bourse chairman and all officers, members, and employees, in their official and individual capacities for damage or loss arising out of the 1994 ILNA convention. Table holders shall provide their own insurance protection for loss by theft or for any other reason whatsoever.

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Local Clubs Meeting Information

Champaign - Urbana Coin Club. *Meetings:* First Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Urbana Civic Center. *Information:* L. J. Kaczor, 1306 Hollycrest Dr., Champaign, IL 61821, or call 217-356-9500.

Corn Belt Coin Club. *Meetings:* First Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the First of America, East College Office, Bloomington, IL. *Information:* Phone Bill Whisler at 217-452-6870.

Fairfield Coin Club. *Meetings:* Second Sunday of each month, 1:30 p.m. at Frontier College, Routes 15 & 45 West, Fairfield, IL. *Information:* Howard Clemmons, 805 Epworth St., Fairfield, IL 62837.

Will County Coin Club. *Meetings:* First Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Harwood Post of the American Legion, I-80 Frontage Rd. off South Sarkin Ave. *Information:* Mark Wieclaw, 175 W. Wood St., New Lenox, IL 60451 or phone 815-485-4137.

Kankakee Coin, Stamp and Card Club. *Meetings:* Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Bird Park Fieldhouse, Bird Park, Court & Wall Street on Rt. 17 West. *Information:* Kankakee Coin Club, P.O. Box 150, Bradley, IL 60915.

Oak Forest Coin Club. *Meetings:* First Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Bremen Township Hall, 15350 Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, IL.

Rantoul Coin Club. *Meetings:* Second Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Temporarily at the American Lutheran Church, 500 Church Drive, Rantoul, IL.

Tazewell Numismatic Society. *Meetings:* First Wednesday of each month at the Methodist Church, Morton, IL. *Information:* Roger Hirstein, 1043 E. Jefferson, Morton, IL 61550.

Wat-cha-kee Coin Club. *Meetings:* Second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 546 N. 6th St., Watseka, IL. *Information:* Phone Kermit Wasmer at 815-432-4636.

Lake County Coin Club. *Meetings:* First Tuesday of each month, 8:00 p.m. at the Conference room of the Sunset Bowl in Waukegan. *Information:* Lake County Coin Club, 2210 Crescent Ave., Waukegan, IL 60085.

Gibson City Coin Club. *Meetings:* Third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Round Table Cafe, Gibson City. *Information:* Roy E. Riblet, 422 E. Chestnut St., Paxton, IL.

Quad-City Coin Club. *Meetings:* Third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Moline Township Hall, 420 - 18th St., Moline, IL, across the street from the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

Mattoon Coin Club. *Meetings:* First Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. South Rte. 45, back of the IGA, south side. *Information:* P.O. Box 143, Mattoon, IL 61938.

Elgin Coin Club. *Meetings:* First Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Elgin VFW Post at 1601 Weld Road, Elgin, IL. *Information:* David Jones, Secretary, P.O. Box 561, South Elgin, IL 60177.

If you would like your meeting time and place listed in future issues contact: ILNA, 325 Coney Ave., Watseka, IL 60970.

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